

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 16, 2004. Applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 7. Reconsideration and favorable action in this case are respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended the previously filed Declaration to include the citizenship (Italy) of inventor Francesco Coppola and include it as an attachment hereto.

Applicants have amended Figures 1a and 1b to include "Prior Art" as requested by the Examiner. Additionally, in Figure 4, buffer 32 was labeled with delay "D0" rather than "D", in conformance with the specification.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants believe that the claim is correctly worded in accordance to the specification. The "Start" signal begins a calibration cycle. During the calibration cycle, a signal is sent from both first and second source signals – these are the calibration signals. The calibration signals are used by the delay circuit 18 to determine an appropriate delay. This delay is thereafter applied to the first signal. While both the first signal and first calibration signal (and second signal and second calibration signal) are shown coming from the same output, they have different purposes. This is described in paragraph [0024] and in paragraphs [0026]-[0027].

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,469,550 to Kurd. Applicant has reviewed this reference in detail and does not believe that it discloses or makes obvious the invention as claimed.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 8-10 are allowable. Applicant also assumes that claims 3-5 would be allowable if the Examiner accepts Applicants arguments regarding the §112 rejection.

With regard to the Kurd reference, this reference only teaches a compensation between first and second clock signals and does not compensate for other delays that could be attributable to first and second source circuits from the viewpoint of a third circuit receiving the first and second signals. Such delays could include different propagation delays between the two circuits, which could vary over time or with temperature. The present invention compensates for delays due to skew between the clocks to the first and second source circuits and any other relative delays between the circuits, such that the signals received at the third circuit are aligned.

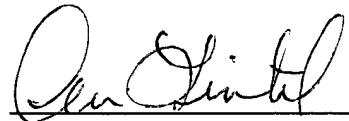
An extension of one month is requested and a Request for Extension of Time under § 1.136 with the appropriate fee is attached hereto.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment, including extension fees, to Deposit Account No. 20-0668 of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Alan W. Lintel, Applicants' Attorney at (972) 664-9595 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alan W. Lintel
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32478

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Anderson, Levine & Lintel
14785 Preston Rd.
Suite 650
Dallas, Texas 75254
Tel. (972) 664-9595